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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/609,253	06/30/2000	Jay S. Walker	00-007	1960

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EXAMINER

FRENEL, VANEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3626

DATE MAILED: 12/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/609,253

Applicant(s)

WALKER ET AL

Examiner

Vanel Frenel

Art Unit

3626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5-47,49,50 and 116-125 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5-47,50 and 116-125 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. This communication is in response to the Amendment filed 09/07/04. Claim 2 has been amended. Claims 4, 48 and 51-115 have been canceled. Claims 2-3,5-47, 49-50 and 116-125 are pending.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 125 is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 9, claim 125 does not show any a period. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2-3, 5-47, 49-50 and 116-125 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reber et al (5,950,632) in view of Kutzik et al (6,108,685).

(A) As per claim 2, Reber discloses a method for use by a first container that is adapted to store first medicine (Reber; Col.7, lines 43-67), the method comprising: storing information regarding the first medicine (See Reber, Col.7, lines 43-67); and wirelessly communicating a signal between the first container and a

second container the second container adapted to store a second medicine (See Reber; Col.7, lines 43-67).

Reber does not explicitly disclose the signal including an indication of a number of times that the second container is beyond a range in which the first container is able to communicate with the second container: and generating at least one code based at least in part on the signal, the at least one code indicating whether at least one party has complied with a schedule for taking the first medicine and the second medicine.

However, these features are known in the art, as evidenced by Kutzik. In particular, Kutzik suggests the signal including an indication of a number of times that the second container is beyond a range in which the first container is able to communicate with the second container: and generating at least one code based at least in part on the signal, the at least one code indicating whether at least one party has complied with a schedule for taking the first medicine and the second medicine (See Kutzik, Col.1, lines 43-52).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included the feature of Kutzik within the system of Reber with the motivation of providing a system controller which includes a control circuit which generates a control signal in response to the daily living activity information obtained by the activity detection subsystem (See Kutzik, Col.2, lines 33-40; Col.9, lines 40-63).

(B) As per claim 3, Reber discloses the method wherein wirelessly communicating a signal between the first container and a second container

comprises at least one of transmitting information regarding the first medicine from the first container to the second container and receiving information regarding the second medicine from the second container (Reber; Col.7, lines 43-67).

(C) As per claim 5, Reber discloses the method further comprising outputting the at least one code to at least one of a representative of an insurance company, a representative of a pharmacy and a representative of a medical facility (Col.6, lines 44-53).

(D) As per claim 6, Reber discloses the method further comprising detecting if the first container and the second container cannot communicate (Col.3, lines 2-25).

(E) As per claim 7, Reber discloses the method further comprising determining if the first container and the second container are separated by a distance that prevents the first container and the second container from communicating (Col.3, lines 2-25).

(F) As per claim 8, Reber discloses the method further comprising determining a time when the first container and the second container are at least initially separated by the distance that prevents the first container and the second container from communicating (Col.3, lines 9-25).

(G) As per claim 9, Kutsik discloses the method further comprising at least one of storing the time and transmitting the time (Col.13, lines 35-64; Colo.16, lines 65-67).

(H) As per claim 10, Reber discloses the method farther comprising determining a distance between the first container and the second container based on the signal (Col.3, lines 9-25).

(I) As per claim 11, Reber discloses the method further comprising at least one of storing the distance and transmitting the distance (Col.4, lines 4-41).

(J) As per claim 12, Reber discloses the method further comprising determining a change in the distance between the first container and the second container based on the signal (Col.3, lines 9-25).

(K) As per claim 13, Reber discloses the method further comprising at least one of storing the change in the distance and transmitting the change in the distance (Col.4, lines 4-4).

(L) As per claim 14, Reber discloses the method further comprising

tracking a location of at least one of the first and the second containers (Col.5, lines 9-30).

(M) As per claim 15, Reber discloses the method wherein tracking the location of at least one of the first and the second containers comprises tracking the location of the at least one of the first and the second containers with a local positioning system (Col.13, lines 25-43).

(N) As per claim 16, Reber discloses the method further comprising identifying the location of the at least one of the first and the second containers with the local positioning system (Col.13, lines 25-43).

(O) As per claim 17, Reber discloses the method further comprising: obtaining information regarding a position of the at least one of the first and the second containers with the local positioning system (Col.13, lines 25-43); and determining a distance between the first and the second containers based at least in part on the information (Col.13, lines 25-43).

(P) As per claim 18, Reber discloses the method further comprising receiving information regarding a schedule for taking at least one of the first medicine and the second medicine (See Abstract, lines 1-6; Col.2, lines 39-67).

(Q) As per claim 19, Reber discloses the method further comprising storing the information (Col.2, lines 48-51).

(R) As per claim 20, Reber discloses the method of claim 18 wherein receiving information regarding a schedule for taking the first medicine comprises receiving the information regarding the schedule from at least one of a representative of an insurance company, a representative of a pharmacy, a representative of a medical facility, a representative of a manufacturer of at least one of the first and the second medicines and a party that is to take at least one of the first and the second medicines (Col.8, lines 63-67 to Col.9, line 14).

(S) As per claim 21, Reber discloses the method further comprising storing the first medicine in the first container (Col.5, lines 40-54).

(T) As per claim 22, Reber discloses the method further comprising detecting if a portion of the first medicine has been removed from the first container (Col.9, lines 15-67).

(U) As per claim 23, Kutsik discloses the method wherein detecting if a portion of the first medicine has been removed from the first container comprises detecting if the first container has been opened or closed (Col.8, lines 30-42).

(V) As per claim 24, Reber discloses the method wherein detecting if a portion of the first medicine has been removed from the first container comprises detecting a weight of the first container (Col.9, lines 14-30).

(W) As per claim 25, Reber discloses the method wherein detecting if a portion of the first medicine has been removed from the first container comprises detecting a count of the first medicine (Col.9, lines 14-30).

(X) As per claim 26, Reber discloses the method further comprising at least one of storing information regarding the portion and transmitting the information regarding the portion if the portion has been removed from the first container (Col.5, lines 40-54; Col.11, lines 55-67).

(Y) As per claim 27, Reber discloses the method of further comprising detecting if the second medicine has been stored in the second container (Col.5, lines 9-54; Col.11, lines 55-67).

(Z) As per claim 28, Reber discloses the method further comprising detecting if a portion of the second medicine has been removed from the second container (Col.5, lines 40-54; Col.8, lines 50-62).

(AA) As per claim 29, Reber discloses the method wherein detecting if the

portion of the second medicine has been removed from the second container comprises receiving a signal from the second container that indicates that the portion of the second medicine has been removed from the second container (Col.8, lines 50-62).

(BB) As per claim 30, Reber discloses the method further comprising at least one of storing information regarding the portion and transmitting the information regarding the portion if the portion has been removed from the second container (Col.11, lines 55-67).

(CC) As per claim 31, Reber discloses the method further comprising storing the information regarding the second medicine, the information being stored within the first container (Col.7, lines 47-67).

(DD) As per claim 32, Reber discloses the method further comprising determining if the first medicine is incompatible with the second medicine (Col.7, lines 60-67 to Col.8, line 41).

(EE) As per claim 33, Reber discloses the method further comprising: detecting if a party attempts to take the first medicine within a predetermined time period of taking the second medicine, and generating a warning if the first medicine is incompatible with the second medicine if the first and second medicines are both taken during the

predetermined time period (Col.8, lines 29-67 to Col.9, line 30).

(FF) As per claim 34, Reber discloses the method further comprising storing an indicator of the warning (Col.10, lines 5-40).

(GG) As per claim 35, Reber discloses the method further comprising transmitting an indicator of the warning (Col.10, lines 5-40).

(HH) As per claim 36, Reber discloses the method wherein transmitting an indicator of the warning comprises transmitting the indicator of the warning to at least one of a representative of an insurance company, a representative of a pharmacy, a representative of a medical facility and a family member (Col.9, lines 1-14).

(II) As per claim 37, Reber discloses the method further comprising receiving information regarding the second medicine stored within second container (Col.7, lines 47-67).

(JJ) As per claim 38, Reber discloses the method wherein receiving information regarding the second medicine stored within the second container comprises receiving information transmitted by the second container (Col.7, lines 47-67).

(KK) As per claim 39, Reber discloses the method wherein the first and the second medicines are the same medicine (Col.8, lines 1-41).

(LL) As per claim 40, Reber discloses the method wherein at least one of the first and the second containers comprises a micro-needle based device (Col.7, lines 33-67).

(MM) As per claim 41, Reber discloses the method further comprising determining if the first container is positioned so as to communicate with the second container, and if not, attempting to prevent a party from accessing at least one of the first and the second medicines (Col.7, lines 55-67 to Col.8, line 49).

(NN) As per claim 42, Reber discloses the method wherein preventing a party from accessing at least one of the first and the second medicines comprises preventing the party from opening at least one of the first and the second containers (Col.7, lines 55-67 to Col.8, line 49).

(OO) As per claim 43, Kutsik discloses the method further comprising tracking a number of times the first container is opened or closed (Col.8, lines 30-42).

(PP) As per claim 44, Kutsik discloses the method further comprising

tracking a number of times 'the second container is opened or closed (Col.8, lines 30-42).

(QQ) As per claim 45, Kutsik discloses the method wherein tracking a number of times the second container is opened or closed comprises: receiving a signal from the second container each time the second container is opened or closed (Col.8, lines 30-42); and counting a number of signals received from the second container (Col.8, lines 30-67).

(RR) As per claim 46, Reber discloses the method further comprising storing at least a portion of a medical history of a party within the first container (Col.7, lines 60-67 to Col.8, line 41).

(SS) As per claim 47, Reber discloses the method further comprising storing information regarding a third medicine in the first container if the first container is refilled with the third medicine (Col.7, lines 60-67 to Col.8, line 41).

(TT) Claim 49 differs from claim 2 by reciting discloses a medicine container comprising.

As per this limitation, it is noted that Reber disclose a medicine storage region adapted to store a medicine (See Reber, Col.7, lines 43-67) and Kutsik discloses a communication device adapted to wirelessly communicate at least one signal between

the medicine container and at least one other medicine container (See Kutsik, Col.15, lines 31-67).

Thus, it is readily apparent these prior art systems utilize a medicine container to perform their specified function.

The remainder of claim 49 is rejected for the same reasons given above for claim 2, and incorporated herein.

(UU) As per claim 50, Reber discloses the medicine container wherein the communication device comprises a transceiver (Col.7, lines 55-59).

(VV) Claim 116 differs from claims 2 and 49 by reciting a method.

As per this limitation, it is noted that Reber discloses obtaining a first container for storing a first medicine (See Reber, Col.7, lines 43-67), and storing a first medicine in the first container (See Reber, Col.7, lines 43-67) and Kutsik discloses the first container being capable of wirelessly communicating with a second container for storing a second medicine (See Kutsik, Col.15, lines 31-67).

Thus, it is readily apparent these prior art systems utilize a method to perform their specified function.

The remainder of claim 116 is rejected for the same reasons given above for claims 2 and 49, and incorporated herein.

(WW) As per claim 117, Reber discloses the method further comprising: obtaining the second container (See Reber, Col.7, lines 43-67); and storing the second medicine in the second container (See Reber, Col.7, lines 43-67).

(XX) As per claim 118, Reber discloses the method further comprising positioning the first container and the second container so that the least container and the second container may communicate (Col.3, lines 2-25; Col.7, lines 28-67).

(YY) As per claim 119, Reber discloses the method further comprising receiving a code that indicates that the first container and the second container are positioned so that the first container and the second container may communicate (Col.3, lines 2-25; Col.7, lines 28-67).

(ZZ) As per claim 120, Reber discloses the method further comprising providing the received code to at least one party (Col.9, lines 1-4).

(AAA) As per claim 121, Reber discloses the method wherein the at least one party comprises at least one of a representative of an insurance company, a representative of a medical facility and a representative of a pharmacy (Col.9, lines 1-4).

(BBB) As per claim 122, Reber discloses the method wherein providing the received code comprises providing an image of the received code (Col.11, lines 1-54).

(CCC) As per claim 123, Reber discloses the method wherein providing the received code comprises entering the received code during a telephone call (Col.7, lines 28-32).

(DDD) As per claim 124, Reber discloses the method wherein providing the received code comprises e-mailing the received code (Col.7, lines 5-10).

(EEE) As per claim 125, Reber discloses the method further comprising obtaining a refill for the first container (Col.13, lines 44-67).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed on 09/07/04 with respect to claims 2-3, 5-47, 49-50, and 116-125 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

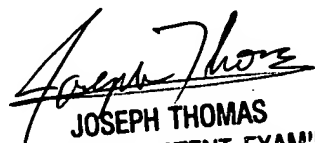
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vanel Frenel whose telephone number is 703-305-4952. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday from 6:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on 703-305-9588. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3626

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

V.F
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JOSEPH THOMAS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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December 21, 2004